



News Release

Cooperating with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
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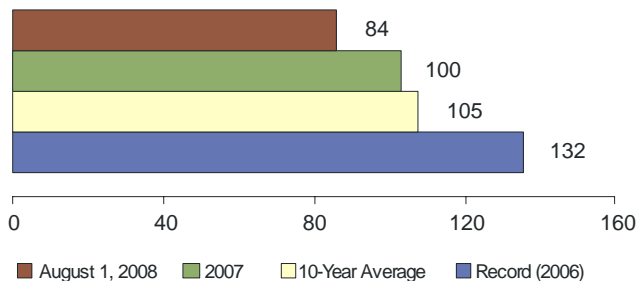
August 12, 2008

NORTH CAROLINA WHEAT AND SOYBEAN PRODUCTION UP, CORN AND COTTON DOWN

Corn for grain

- Yield is forecast at 84 bushels per acre, down 16 bushels from last year.
- Production is forecast to total 69.72 million bushels, 32% less than last year.
- Harvested acres are forecast at 830,000, down 190,000 from 2007.

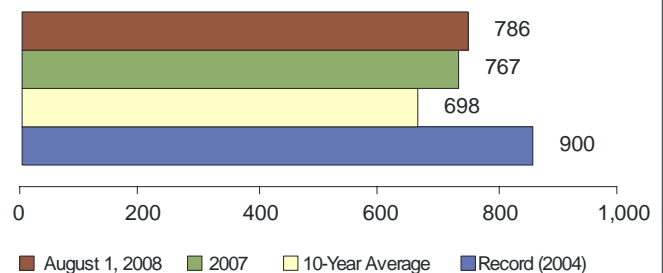
Crop Yield - Corn for Grain
(bushels)



Cotton

- Yield is forecast at 786 pounds per acre, up from the final 2007 yield of 767 pounds per acre.
- Production is forecast at 650,000 bales, down 17% from last year's production of 783,000 bales.
- Harvested acres are expected to total 397,000 compared with 490,000 acres harvested in 2007.

Crop Yield - Cotton, Upland
(pounds)

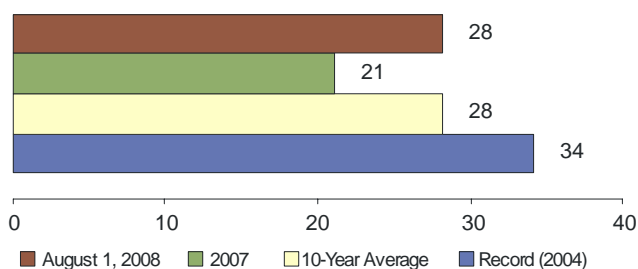


July 2008 Crop Weather: Precipitation during the month of July has been scattered with the Mountain region receiving the least amount of rain. Tropical Storm Cristobal skirted NC and dumped 6.64 inches on Wilmington on July 20. The topsoil moisture in the Mountains was becoming considerably drier than those in the Piedmont and Coastal regions. Scattered rain has been beneficial, but some crops are still under drought stress, particularly corn. Temperatures during the month have been mostly normal.

Soybeans

- Yield is forecast to average 28 bushels per acre, up 7 bushels from last year.
- Production is forecast to total 43.96 million bushels, up 54% from last year.
- Harvested area is projected at 1.57 million acres, up 15% from last year.

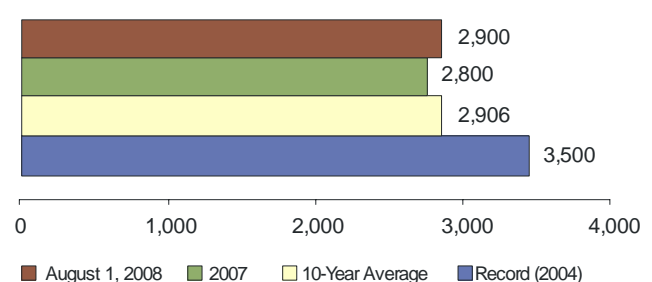
Crop Yield - Soybeans
(bushels)



Peanuts

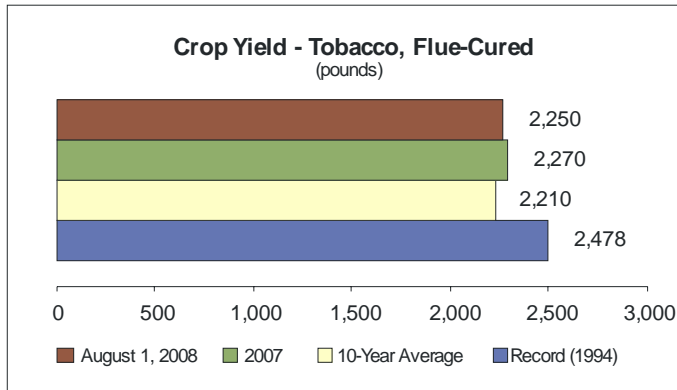
- Yield per acre is forecast at 2,900 pounds, up 100 pounds per acre from last year.
- Production is forecast at 264 million pounds up 5% from last year's production.
- Harvested area is projected at 91,000 acres.

Crop Yield - Peanuts
(pounds)



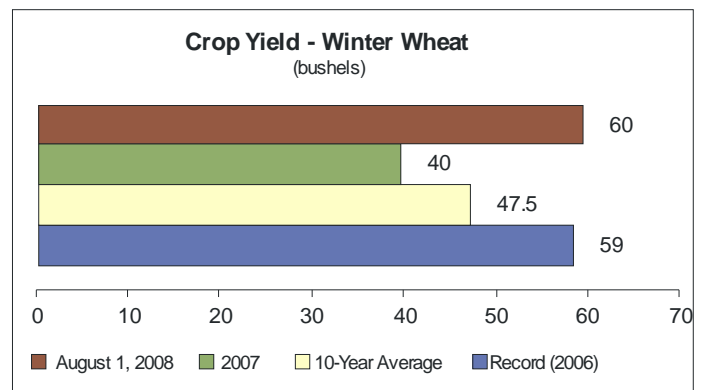
Flue-cured tobacco

- Yield per acre is forecast at 2,250 pounds, down 20 pounds from last year.
- Production is forecast at 380 million pounds, slightly above the 377 million pounds produced in 2007.
- Acres for harvest are estimated at 169,000, up 3,000 acres from last year.



Winter Wheat

- Yield, at 60 bushels per acre, is up from the estimated 58 bushel yield in June, and breaks the 2006 record high of 59 bushels per acre.
- Production is forecast at a record 42.0 million bushels, up 110% from 2007 and 23% greater than the previous record of 34.2 million bushels set in 1997.
- Harvested acres, at 700,000, are up 40% from 2007.



ACRES, YIELD AND PRODUCTION, AUGUST 1, 2008

Crops	Unit	Harvested		Yield		Production		Percent Change
		2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	
NORTH CAROLINA								
		Thousand Acres				Thousands		+/-
Corn for Grain	Bu.	1,020	830	100	84	102,000	69,720	-32
Cotton, Upland ¹	Lb.	490	397	767	786	783	650	-17
Hay, Other	Ton	690	790	1.50	2.00	1,035	1,580	+53
Peanuts	Lb.	90	91	2,800	2,900	252,000	263,900	+5
Soybeans for Beans	Bu.	1,360	1,570	21	28	28,560	43,960	+54
Tobacco: All	Lb.	170	172	2,255	2,236	383,420	384,600	0
Tobacco: Flue Cured	Lb.	166	169	2,270	2,250	376,820	380,250	+1
Tobacco: Burley	Lb.	4	3	1,650	1,450	6,600	4,350	-34
Wheat: Winter	Bu.	500	700	40	60	20,000	42,000	+110
		Actual Acres						
FRUITS:								
Apples ²	Lb.	6,800	³	8,820	³	60,000	165,000	+175
Grapes ²	Ton	1,400	³	2.29	³	3.20	5.50	+72
UNITED STATES								
		Thousand Acres				Millions		
Corn for Grain	Bu.	86,542	79,290	151.1	155.0	13,073.9	12,287.9	-6
Cotton: All ¹	Lb.	10,489	7,849	879	842	19,206.9	13,766.8	-28
Hay: Other	Ton	39,955	39,661	1.95	1.94	77.7	77.0	-1
Peanuts	Lb.	1,195	1,426	3,130	3,151	3,740.7	4,493.4	+20
Soybeans for Beans	Bu.	62,820	73,341	41.2	40.5	2,585.2	2,972.6	+15
Tobacco: All	Lb.	356,000	350,440	2,191	2,271	779.9	796.0	+2
Tobacco: Flue Cured	Lb.	223,000	222,000	2,259	2,268	503.8	503.6	0
Tobacco: Burley	Lb.	106,300	96,450	1,951	2,071	207.4	199.7	-4
Wheat: Winter	Bu.	35,952	40,252	42.2	46.6	1,516.0	1,874.9	+24
		Actual Acres						
FRUITS:								
Apples ²	Lb.	363,440	³	25,100	³	9,113.9	9,165.2	+1
Grapes ²	Ton	932,150	³	7.53	³	7.0	7.2	+3

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. ² Total production. ³ To Be released January, 2009.